

Chautauqua Meaning Given In Harper's 1879 Issue

T. H. Tripp-Stark 4/30/67.

Dorothy Clark

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The word "Chautauqua" means different things to different people. To some it means the lake in southwestern New York near Lake Erie. This lake is 17 miles long, 3 miles wide and 1,300 feet above sea level.

To some the word denoted the village on this lake which was a summer educational center. To still others it meant the annual Chautauqua meeting, providing public lectures, concerts, and dramatic performances during the summer months, usually in an outdoor setting.

Still another meaning of the word pertains to a system of education flourishing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, originating at Chautauqua, New York.

An 1879 issue of Harper's New Monthly Magazine reported that "during the past few years the work "Chautauqua" has been growing gradually in popularity. To many it used to suggest visions of a cool and lovely lakeside summer resort somewhere in the wilds of western New York. Others have naturally connected the work with Sunday School work."

In 1879 it was estimated that between eight and fifteen thousand persons, scattered over the country, were pursuing a course of reading and study which was supposed to give them the college student's outlook upon the world of men and matter."

Harper's went on to state that "the Chautauqua idea at first meant an annual gathering on the shores of Lake Chautauqua in western New York for the purpose of instruction in advanced methods of Sunday school work, combined with rational recreation."

"From this came the desire on the part of some to secure a deeper insight into the facts of history and science. To give that insight in a meeting of but a few weeks duration was a recognized impossibility and a course of home study was devised to meet the desires.

tween the metropolis and Cincinnati, Chautauqua can be reached in less than a day from either point.

The altitude of the lake had for years been a source of pride to the rural dwellers. It was a region with traditions. Near the shore of the lake were many rude and curious cairns and forts, undoubtedly work of mound builders. Next came the Indians from the famous Six Nations.

In 1872 when Dr. Vincent visited the Chautauqua region



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Camp Meeting Site

In 1872 Rev. Dr. John H. Vincent, the Sunday School secretary of Methodist Episcopal Church to Fair Point, on the western shore of Lake Chautauqua, and his friend Lewis Miller, a man well known in Ohio for his liberal and judicious use of a large fortune, had suggested that a camp meeting ground be taken for this purpose of an old-fashioned camp meeting."

"They saw in the beauty and healthfulness of the region, and in its central location and ease of access, as the "promised land" of their vaguely defined Sunday School assembly. Lying between and near the great trunk lines which traverse New York state, the Erie and Central, and just midway be-

it already had something of a name as a healthful and attractive resort for summer tourists, and a number of hotels were located on its shores.

Adult Education

In July, 1874, meetings were begun at Fair Point. Lasting through two weeks, they were successful beyond anticipation. The programme, containing names of many eminent speakers and writers, attracted people who entered heartily into the work, and the novel movement created a furor in the vicinity.

Encouraged by the result of the first meeting, the National Sunday School Association acquired by purchase the eighty acres comprising Fair Point, and at once began improvements. They built a model of Palestine in earth and rock, over which men could walk, and from which they could learn more of the topography of the Holy Land and an hour's study than by the use of any other means.

Rev. W. W. Wythe, M. D., was responsible for the laying out of Palestine Park, one

of the peculiar attractions of Fair Point. This was supplemented by a large model of Jerusalem, a model of the Jewish tabernacle, one-fifth the size of the original a model of the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

By means of this collection of models, and with the aid of stereoscopic views of scenes in the Holy Land thrown on an immense screen at night, the students of Bible history were enabled to learn.

In its second year, President Grant visited and more than twenty thousand persons were present. The average daily attendance was near six thousand. The Chautauqua became known as the "school of the people" not a university, but a school for those who, conscious of their need, earnestly desired the highest culture possible for them. It

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

hardly merited the name summer university, but it had the features of a school. Text books were developed, tests and examinations were given and diplomas were awarded. "By 1879 the Chautauqua had grown to a village of some five hundred summer cottages scattered over the hundred acres of wooded ground forming the assembly's property and hemmed in on two sides by the lake. Some went to the hotels, some lived in tents. At night the grounds were lighted, and the immense auditorium was lighted by lime-light until electric light was invented. Groups of Chautauqua enthusiasts in a town would band together and continue their studies during the rest of the year. Thus the influence of Chautauqua went on.

The original object of the Chautauqua system was to apply scientific principles to Bible study and to train Sunday School teachers. It holds annual sessions during the months of July and August at Chautauqua, N. Y. Fourteen schools under the direction of New York University hold summer sessions and offer courses with university credit.

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle was established in 1878 to spread the influence of the system throughout the country. The circle aimed to promote habits of reading and study in connection with the routine of daily life.

The essentials of the plan were: A definite course covering four years, each year complete in itself; specified books approved by the counsellors; an allotment of time by the week and month; a

monthly magazine with additional readings and notes; a membership book with review outlines; and other aids.

Individual readers had all the privileges of the parent circle, and local circles might be formed by three or more persons. Certificates were issued to all members who completed the prescribed courses. In addition to the different courses there were many lectures and concerts.

Chautauqua was the first adult movement. It quickly spread throughout the United States, but had almost disappeared by 1930. Today the term Chautauqua is being revived in many communities in connection with the study of local history. Indiana's Sesquicentennial has done much to stimulate interest in all phases of Hoosier Heritage.

CLARK, Dorothy J.

History of England Holds Key to Origin of Plants

TRIB-STAR 5/9/71

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

There is an old Indian saying "Look first for the berries and then the bear, when bear hunting." In addition to fruit, plants have so many uses. The Indians learned they could be used many ways and passed this knowledge on to the pioneer white settlers.

Plants can be used raw or cooked, as pot-herbs, as vegetables, as potatoes, as sugar, syrup, vinegar, tea, coffee, nectar, chocolate, flour, nuts and seeds. The ashes of sunflowers, hickory bark and coltsfoot can be used for salt.

Smartweed leaves and the dried and powdered roots of Jack-in-the-pulpit are used as pepper. The inner bark of red osier dogwood is a substitute for tobacco. Bouncing Bet and Yucca produce soap. Scouring Rush is a good scouring pad. Wild Ginger, onions and Jack-in-the-pulpit are used as seasoning.

It was not until I read an old History of England printed in 1850 that I learned just how old some of our fruits and vegetables are. This curious little volume told the year many foods were introduced in England.

All sorts of little known fruits and flowers were brought into England during the reign of Henry VII and VIII, from about 1500 to 1578. The mask and damask roses, the tulips, several sorts of plum trees and currant plants were introduced during this time.

Gardening was introduced into England from the Netherlands where all vegetables were imported until 1509. Musk melons and apricots were cultivated in England very early. Apricots were first planted in England in 1540 by Henry VIII's gardener. He was also credited with the pale gooseberry, with salads, garden roots, cabbages, etc., which he brought from Flanders and hops from Artois in 1520.

The damask rose was brought to Henry VIII by his physician, Dr. Linacre. Pippins, currants (or Corinthian grapes), the musk rose and several sorts of plums were brought in from Italy. The tamarisk came from Germany.

In 1487 the artichoke was first planted in England. A parsnip was first produced in England in 1608. Cauliflower was first planted there in 1703 and celery in 1704.

Cherry trees were first planted in Britain in 100 B.C., but some were brought from Flanders and planted in Kent in 1540.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

Grapes were first planted in 1552, but cider, called wine, was made in 1284. In 1567, gilly flowers, carnations, Provence roses, etc., came from France. Woad, a blue dye, came from France. Tulip roots first came to England from Vienna in 1578. Beans, peas and salads in common use in 1850 were first brought in in 1660.

According to this old English history, potatoes were first brought to England from America by Hawkins in 1563, and from there to Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1586. Turkeys came to England in 1523.

Mulberry trees were first planted in 1609. Hemp and flax were first planted in 1533. Chocolate was introduced into England from Mexico in 1520. Coffee was first brought to England in 1641.

A Penny a Quart

Basic things like beer and bread were mentioned. Bread was first made with yeast in England about 1650. Ale was

Continued On Page 5, Col. 1.

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

invented in 1464 B.C. Beer was introduced in 1492, in Scotland as early as 1482. By the statute of James I, one full quart of the best beer or ale was to be sold for one penny, and two quarts of small beer for one penny.

The frankfurter, alias the hot dog, is by far the most popular American sausage product. It makes up more than 30 per cent of the na-

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

tional sausage total.

Hot dogs immigrated here in the early 1850's from Germany where their name was, and still is, not frankfurters but "warm Wurstchen" (warm little sausages). They made their first grand-scale hit in Chicago in 1893 on the Midway at the World's Columbian Exposition, where they competed against Sousa's Band and the hoochy-coochy vibrations of Little Egypt under the name of "red-hots." The barkers would bellow: "See them roasting! See them toasting! Gitcha raid hots!"

The dog concept came later, inspired by the red hots' al-

leged resemblance to a dachshund's torso. It achieved folklore status thanks largely to T. A. Dorgan, the wonderful Hearst cartoonist who signed himself "Tad." For years in his syndicated cartoons he drew sausages that growled, woofed, barked and even exchanged dialogue.

In these days of convenience foods, frozen dinners, freeze-dried products, etc., it's difficult for us to realize that our pioneer ancestors even had to make their own vinegar. For every 10 gallons of rain water, the pioneer would take one gallon of whisky, one gallon of common mol-

lasses and two sheets of foolscap paper; put them in a large crock or container in the sun or by the kitchen stove for seven weeks. The vinegar "mother" would attach itself to the paper and could be reused.

If the pioneer wanted to make blackberry wine, he would put one quart of boiling water to one gallon of blackberries, and let stand 36 hours. Then he would strain and add three pounds of white sugar to one gallon of syrup, put it in vessels, tie a piece of thin muslin over till it "quit singing," and then cook and let stand till October,

when it was fit for use.

There was also an old pioneer saying "Look first for the bear, when hunting berries!"

First Mail Service Was Offered in Massachusetts

Community Affairs File

T-3 Mar 26, 1972

Clark K. Dorothy

Community Affairs File By DOROTHY J. CLARK

In the United States there has been a mail system of sorts from the earliest time of settlement. At first post offices were kept in coffee houses and were simply receptacles where letters from abroad might be placed until delivered to those to whom they were addressed.

The earliest legislation on mails can be found in the general court records of Massachusetts, "which provides that notice be given John Brown, that his house in Boston is the place appointed for all letters which are brought beyond the seas or are to be sent thither, to be left with him; and he is take care that they are delivered or sent according to the directions; and he is allowed for every letter a penny, and must answer all miscarriage through his own neglect in this kind." This was in the year 1639.

In 1657 the colonial law of Virginia was passed which "required every planter to provide a messenger to convey the dispatches, as they arrived, to the next plantation and so on, on pain of forfeiting a hogshead of tobacco for default."

In 1672 a line of posts was established between New York and Boston along the coast and the mail was carried monthly between those two cities.

In 1692 letters patent, good for 21 years, was given to Thomas Neale authorizing him to set up posts in North America. This was uninterrupted until 1710 when the postal officers of Great Britain were consolidated and the chief office in America was established in New York.

One of the earliest acts of the Continental Congress was to establish routes from Falmouth, Maine, to Savannah, Georgia. Benjamin Franklin was made Postmaster General by the British Crown in 1754. He was to make six thousand pounds continental money out of the whole post office department of America, and under his efficient work the postal service developed rapidly. He was the first to give equal privileges to publishers.

The very next year he announced that the mail, which had been run once a fortnight to New England, would start once a week the year 'round, whereby answers might be obtained to letters between Philadelphia and Boston in three weeks which before had required six weeks.



DOROTHY J.
CLARK

In 1774 it was announced in all the papers in the colonies, that "John Perkins engages to ride post, to carry the mail once a week between Philadelphia and Boston; and will take along or back lead horses or any parcels." When a post rider proposed starting, notice was given of his intention by advertisement, also by town crier for several days in advance.

In 1790 there were 75 post offices in the United States; in 1897 there were 75,000.

In 1840 there were no letter carriers and to eliminate this inconvenience private dispatch companies delivered letters at the rate of two cents each. Adhesive stamps were issued by these companies for the benefit of their customers in

Continued On Page 11, Col. 1.

Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page 4.

large cities. In 1845 Congress revised the postal laws and mail service was then cheaper and more rapid with a rate of five cents per half ounce. An attempt was made to use adhesive postage stamps as a time saver, but the use of stamps was optional and caused considerable worry to the post rider.

In 1847, however, the post office department issued five cent stamps and all who sent letters were required to use them. These first stamps were five- and ten-cent denominations. In 1851 another change occurred in the postal service. Letters were carried for three cents per half ounce for a distance of not over 3,000 miles. In 1855 this rate carried letters anywhere in the U.S. Postage was further reduced in 1883 when letters were carried anywhere in the U.S. for only two cents.

To day's higher postage rates can be contrasted with those of 1792 when it was six cents per fourth ounce for thirty miles or less; eight cents for 30 up to 60 miles; ten cents for 60 to 100 miles; 12 cents for 100 to 150 miles; 15 cents for 150 to 200 miles; 17 cents for 200 to 250 miles; 20 cents for 250 to 350 miles; 22 cents for 350 to 450 miles; and 25 cents for over 450 miles.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Mail By Stage

W. T. Pittenger, early settler of Vigo County, who lived about two miles northwest of New Goshen, enjoyed reminiscing about the days of early mail service here. He told how "when I was a boy (1830's) my father lived on Otter Creek prairie near the Lafayette Road. That road was a stage line owned by George Markle and when it was not too muddy the mails were carried on the stage coach. When it was too muddy, they were carried on horseback. Clinton got her mails by this route, the stage crossing the river on a ferry.

"The stage driver drove the horses hard, and very often they could be seen in the gallop. At intervals there were stations where relays of horses were kept and here changes were made. Each driver had a large tin horn about the length of a shotgun and this was blown by the driver when the stage was about a mile distant from the station as a warning to get the horses ready to make a change.

"Dole's Tavern was still standing on the old Lafayette Road in 1901 and was occupied by William Jones. It was located about two and a half miles southwest of Atherton."

Vincennes was once a distributing point where mails were made up for the north, northwest, west and southwest. Terre Haute received her earliest mails from Vincennes, at times by post riders, at others by stage coach. If the roads were very muddy they were brought by means of a go-cart made of two wheels of a wagon which was constructed in such a manner as to carry the mail pouches. To this vehicle four horses were hitched.

During the administration of James K. Polk, Elisha Stout, a prominent citizen of Vincennes and the man who published the first newspaper in the Northwest Territory, succeeded to the post office at Vincennes. Mr. Stout was then chief distributor for one of the largest territories in the postal service of the United States.

All the mails collected at Cincinnati from the east and northeast and that of Louisville from all parts of the south for the west went directly to Vincennes and there were distributed. As needed, there were four to eight clerks hired. It was difficult to find distributing clerks in those days because very few men were acquainted with the geography of the Northwest, and when the political complexion of the administration changed, it was often very hard for the new postmaster to begin his duties with the needed help.

Next week I'll continue the story of how the post office delivered the mails in the Wabash Valley . . .

Community Affairs File

Historically Speaking

Ts APR 18 1976

Ts APR 18 1976

By DOROTHY J. CLARK



After having passed through the terrors of earthquakes and fire, having roamed the streets of San Francisco for four days homeless and shelterless, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Stitz returned to Terre Haute and to their family and friends who believed them dead.

The couple had traveled to California the first of November, 1905, partly for business reasons, and partly for the trip. They had heard that San Francisco was one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and upon arrival enjoyed the weather, the shining bay, handsome buildings and flowers everywhere.

The third night in the city, they were awakened by a curious rocking of the bed and realized an earthquake was in progress. There were three such tremors that night, and the Hoosier couple went to bed each night thereafter with the feeling that before morning the earth might open and swallow them.

They were astonished at the indifference of the residents there. The newspapers never mentioned the tremors as if it might be disloyal to the city.

The morning of April 18,

1906, 70 years ago today, Mrs. Stitz was awakened by the rocking of the bed, which quickly became more violent. The floor heaved, the walls swayed back and forth, and the plastering cracked and fell. The bed broke and fell under them, and other pieces of furniture fell in a heap in the middle of the floor.

Worst of all was the noise, a heavy rumbling and bumping under them, so loud that they could not hear the crashing of the furniture. It seemed to last for an eternity, although it was really only a minute. As soon as they could walk, they rushed out of the house and found the street filled with terrified people all dressed in their nightclothes.

The houses across the street had been moved several feet back of their foundations, and the walls were leaning as though they would fall at any moment. The stone steps had cracked and fallen away from the houses, and little children, white and dumb with terror, stood in the doorways, not knowing how to get out.

In telling her friends later about the horrible experience, Mrs. Stitz remarked that the thing that impressed itself most on her mind at that moment was the flowers, the roses covering the walls from the ground to the roof; they were magnificent funeral flowers to her way of thinking; the whole city seemed shrouded in flowers, and she never wanted to see another rose again.

When the earthquake disturbance had subsided, Mr. and Mrs. Stitz went back into the house and hurriedly dressed. They decided to see if their friend's house had survived and started out walking carefully through the debris. The streets were filled with rubble as if the city had been bombed. The street they were walking along had sunk evenly and level, and was

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

over

three feet below the sidewalks. Another had a deep crack about a foot wide running down the center of it for blocks. The street car rails were snapped in two like toothpicks. The ground under their feet continued to tremble.

Once the ground right in front of them dropped suddenly almost six feet, and they turned and ran in the opposite direction. They passed a man standing on the roof of his house in his nightshirt who seemed to be trying to find a way to get through it. The house had sunk until the roof was level with the ground. When they asked what he was doing, he said he wanted to get inside to find some clothes, but had no idea how he had gotten out.

When they reached their friend's house, they found it as badly wrecked as their own, and there was nothing to do except camp out. People came by the hundreds to an open square near by, dressed in every sort of outlandish costume, many bare-footed and in night-clothes, and each one had saved something.

With many it was a household pet of some sort — a cat, a dog or a bird — others had little bundles of clothes under their arms, while some had trunks which they were dragging along the street by a rope. Several women were pulling rocking chairs piled high with clothes.

The first day it was almost impossible to get food, but after that the soldiers brought food and portioned it out to the survivors. They made bonfires and cooked picnic fashion. The most exorbitant prices were charged for everything, and if the soldiers had not broken into the provision shops and taken food by force, most of the poorer people would have starved.

Everyone spent the next night outdoors. They would

have been afraid to go into a house, even if there had been any house to go into. No one could sleep, not so much on account of the discomfort as the excitement and fear.

Of course, looting began at once, and the soldiers were ordered to shoot anyone caught at it. Dozens were shot every day. Because the city was under martial law, the soldiers were able to take anything they wanted to so they proceeded to find liquor and became drunk and dangerous. Many of the people were more afraid of them than they were of another earthquake or fire.

As soon as the authorities became aware of the situation, they ordered all liquor poured out. A large tank in a brewery was tapped and the beer flooded the street.

After the first horror of the disaster was over, people began to make the best of the situation. They found a piano in a nearby house and pulled it out on the sidewalk. For the next three nights there was dancing and singing.

Finally the Stitzs were able to get standing room on a train leaving for Sacramento. Needless to say, the trains were packed, and all along the way people brought baskets filled with sandwiches, fruit, pies and cake, and buckets of coffee to give to the survivors free of charge. No one slept on the trains. It was not until they reached Chicago and saw the city intact that they felt they really had escaped. They could finally go to bed and sleep, unafraid of another earthquake such as they had experienced.

Upon arrival in Terre Haute, Mr. and Mrs. Stitz agreed they would never plan another pleasure trip to the west coast, and would certainly never plan to spend the winter months in that location again.

Memories of Corpus Christi

Year's sojourn was eye-opening experience

TUE MAY 12 1985

Clark, Dorothy

Some day I plan to go back to Corpus Christi, Texas. I'd like to see if my memories of the eight months I spent there 40 years ago during World War II still ring true.

My husband was stationed at Ward Island, near the Naval Air Station, and as soon as I could rent our home in Terre Haute and get packed, I took off. The Greyhound bus trip from Indiana to Texas was tiring, but having never been farther west than the Mississippi River, I was fascinated by all the new country.

Arriving with two huge suitcases, I found Corpus Christi completely overrun with sightseers. There was a rodeo in town, and every hotel, motel and rooming house was packed. A sympathetic taxi driver suggested the U.S.O., and I gratefully accepted his advice.

The U.S.O. desk also was a busy place, but the person in charge took pity on an exhausted Hoosier and found accommodations for me. Clutching a slip of paper with the address in my hand, I trundled the heavy bags back out to the taxi stand. By this time those bags were pulling my arms right out of their sockets.

When I told the taxi driver the address the U.S.O. had given me, I thought he raised his eyebrows and gave me a suspicious look, but by that time I was too tired to care. We arrived at the hotel, registered at the desk, and thinking of a hot bath and bed, I smiled at the bellboy as he picked up the bags.

Historically speaking



Clark is Vigo County's official historian and formerly worked for The Terre Haute Tribune.

By Dorothy Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

Instead of heading for the elevator, we marched single file out the front door, down a short walk, and to a little white house next door to the hotel. My travel-numbed brain told me this was unusual but when in Texas, do as the Texans do.

The bellboy unlocked the door, turned on the light, accepted his tip and turned to leave. Then he hesitated, smiled a little and suggested that I be sure and keep the door locked. This should have warned me, but the sight of a shower and the clean bed were uppermost in my mind.

Following his suggestion I carefully locked the door, and put in a call to my husband at the air station to let him know my whereabouts. We arranged to meet the next day when he would be off duty. Next the shower, and straight to bed.

My tired muscles had hardly

stopped twitching before there were soft tappings at the door. Male voices in all stages of drunkenness began asking for Mabel. I kept still as a mouse. My name wasn't Mabel. Before the long night was over, I could hardly believe any one girl could have been so popular as this Mabel. Every Tom, Dick and Harry in that town must have tapped, rapped, pounded and beat on that door, trying the door knob, and using every means they could think of to get Mabel to open the door.

Needless to say, my furious husband found me suitable living quarters the next day, but the adventure has lived on. The family refers to it as "the night Dorothy spent in a Texas whorehouse!"

I have some pleasant memories of Corpus Christi: The hot sun when it was overcoat weather back in Indiana, the fun of feeding seagulls down on the sea wall and watching the pelicans dive belly-buster fashion for fish in the bay. No matter what hour of the day, the view from Cole Park was magnificent and ever changing.

Our apartment was formerly the maid's quarters built next to the garage, completely modern and equipped with a tiny natural gas heater to cope with the bitter cold "northerns."

The insect life of Corpus has to be experienced to be fully believed. Scorpions were in the bathtub and even crawled up the drain tube into our little ice box. Friend husband must have felt like an exterminator

at times, killing furry spiders with eyes that gleamed in the shadowy closet, and all sorts of flying things.

Probably the most harrowing experience of our year's stay in Corpus was the hurricane. We observed all the precautions without any idea of what a hurricane could do. Indiana has tornadoes, but never hurricanes. The howling winds, slowly dimming light bulbs, fading radio signal, these were bad, but seeing a car with all its paint sandblasted off by the blowing sand was terrifying.

Navy personnel can always seem to find plenty to gripe about, but years later people look back at their experiences and find plenty to chuckle about. I remember the beautiful skyline of Corpus as seen from a chartered fishing boat, the sight of huge poinsettias blooming in the yards as part of the landscaping, not as hothouse potted plants seen only at holiday time in Indiana.

I remember the time I ate my first shrimp and broke out in enormous hives. I had to travel all the way to Corpus to find out I was allergic to shrimp!

Best of all, I remember the friendly people of Corpus who would stop their cars as I was standing waiting for a bus and inquire in their soft southern voices if they could "carry me" downtown. Yes, some day I plan to go back to Corpus Christi and renew memories of 40 years ago.

Clark Dorothy

Bell rings 'liberty throughout land'

IS NOV 22 1987

A great many Americans visit Independence Hall in Philadelphia each year to see the Liberty Bell, one of the most precious American historic relics.

Made of bronze, the bell is 48 inches in diameter, 3 feet tall, and weighs 2,080 pounds. The sound bowl is $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick. Cast in London, it cost 100 pounds sterling.

The Liberty Bell bears the inscription: "By order of the Province of Pennsylvania for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752." Underneath this are the prophetic words from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

The subject of much conjecture, the true reason for the selection of this text is apparent when the full text is read: "And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

The Quakers had in mind the arrival of William Penn and their forefathers more than half a century before when they selected the text.

The bell arrived from London in August 1752, and seemed in good shape. However, while it was being tested, it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper. The captain of the sailing ship refused to take it on board again, so it could not be sent back.

John Pass and Charles Stow, two very skillful men, undertook to recast the bell, and it was again found to be defective. In an attempt to change the tone of the bell which was considered too high, too much copper was added to the metal.

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

The ingenious workmen undertook to again recast the bell, and this time they were successful. It was placed in the tower of the State House in June 1753.

True to its motto, at noon on Monday, July 8, 1776, (not the Fourth), it rang out the message of "Liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

For many years the bell continued to be rung on every Fourth of July. It was rung to celebrate victories and tolled at the death of Revolutionary War heroes.

While being tolled for the funeral of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Marshall on July 8, 1835, the bell again was cracked. The crack spread, and it was forever silenced on Feb. 22, 1843.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to continue its use by enlarging the cause of its dissonance and chipping the edges. It was removed from the tower to a lower story and only used on occasions of public sorrow.

Later it was placed on the original timbers in the vestibule of the State House. In 1873 it was suspended beneath a larger bell which had been presented to the city in 1866.

The Liberty Bell has been moved from Independence Hall 10 times: once when the British took Philadelphia during the Revolution; twice for street parades in Philadelphia; and the other seven times to be taken to Expositions in various cities in the United States.

The bell was taken to New Orleans in 1884, to Atlanta in 1895, to the Charleston Exposition in 1901-2, to Boston in 1903, and to St. Louis in 1904.

A special, open, railroad flatcar was constructed for transporting and displaying the Liberty Bell. A strong pipe railing surrounded the

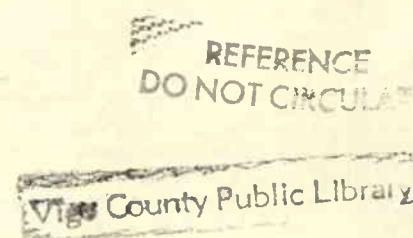
car, which was guarded day and night. While on exhibit, a special guard was stationed in each corner of the car. No one was allowed to touch the bell, and guards had to watch out for anyone who might try to tap or strike it. No one was allowed on the flatcar.

In 1915 when the bell was taken to San Francisco for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, it was understood that it would be the last time the historic bell would be on display any place other than its home, Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

In order for as many Americans as possible to get a glimpse of this symbol of their nation's heritage, it was decided to work out a railroad time schedule whereby brief stops could be made in all towns and cities and the bell put on display.

Word was received that the bell would stop in Terre Haute on Sunday, Nov. 21, 1915, about 4:30 p.m. The train was to arrive at Union Station over the Vandalia (later Pennsylvania) tracks and be here for only 30 minutes.

Huge crowds were anticipated because of newspaper publicity, and arrangements were made by the Board of School Trustees and the city's Board of Safety.



Community Affairs File

All school children were to meet on Eighth Street south of the tracks and wait for the train. Then they would march past the car and over to Ninth Street where they would be dismissed.

Everyone else was asked to form on Eighth Street north of the tracks to view the bell on the north side of the tracks. A squad of 25 policemen under Capt. Smock, and a squad of 25 firefighters under Chief Bledsoe were assigned to crowd control.

This was the last chance for the people of the Wabash Valley to see the Liberty Bell unless they journeyed to Philadelphia. It was on its way home for the last time after a 17,000-mile trip through 30 states.

It was estimated that 10,000 school children could be expected to turn out for the event along with their parents, relatives and other citizens from a wide area.

Needless to say, the immense crowd was much greater than officials anticipated. It quickly outgrew the plan, and crowd control became impossible. It was a miracle no one was killed. Humanity of all ages was so tightly packed that if anyone had lost his or her footing they would have been trampled to death.

Parents wisely held on to their own children, holding them aloft to see the bell and to keep them from getting crushed. If the old bell had managed to hit a note, it would not have been heard over the noise of the panic-stricken mob.

How many people remember that day — Nov. 21, 1915?